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CLAN
Devi • Witchblade

# Devi May Care

While Virgin Comics' superhero line (developed in associatiation with *Stan Lee)* is still in development, the company already has one heroine who uses her supernatural powers to defend humanity against the evil forces of a renegade god.

Her name is Devi, and she is a goddess reborn in the body of a human host. So it's only natural that she should eventually cross paths with *another* human host with supernatural abilities—a woman who wields a mystical Witchblade.

The two heroines join forces in Virgin's first intercompany crossover project; the meeting began last last month in the pages of Top Cow's ***Witchblade/Devi,*** and it concludes this month in Virgin Comics' ***Devi/Witchblade.*** The overall story is plotted by *Ron Marz,* who also scripts the first book in the crossover, which is illustrated by *Eric Basaldua;* writer *Samit Basu* does scripting honors on the second part, while *Mukesh Singh* does the art honors.

Marz turns out to be the ideal choice for the project, since he has a history with both characters. "This was my first time writing ***Devi,*** but I've actually *edited* the ***Devi*** title for Virgin for more than a year," Marz said. "So I'm pretty familiar with the character, her supporting cast and the setting of the book."

*Gotham Chopra,* Chief Creative Officer & Editor-In-Chief for Virgin, explained how the crossover came about. "Last year in San Diego, my colleague *Sharad [Devarajan,* Virgin Comics' CEO], *Matt Hawkins, Ron Marz,* and I got together over a drink and just started spitballing how we might collaborate. We've always been huge admirers of the guys at Top Cow, and this crossover really grew organically out of that. Plus—who could turn down a chance to do a hot girl-on-girl crossover?" Chopra joked.

"Ron really served as the principal creator, since he's been so involved in both ***Witchblade*** as a writer and in ***Devi*** as an editor," Chopra added. "Also, we had a lot of material from both books to draw on. When we started to contemplate all the others creators we could bring on board, from artists to writers to editors, we just hit our stride and the book started to emerge."

Marz explained how the story developed. "By the time we sat down and talked about it at San Diego last year, everyone just sort of assumed that I'd be writing at least one of the issues of the crossover. I came up with an overall outline for the story, and everybody involved signed off on the direction.

"I wrote the first issue, which was published by Top Cow, with Eric Basaldua on art. The second issue, being published by Virgin, is written by *Samit Basu* with art by *Mukesh Singh,* who were part of the team that originally launched ***Devi***. I'm more than comfortable turning the rest of the story over to them—they're doing terrific stuff."

Marz is one of the few veterans in the industry who has worked for pretty much *every* major company in the field during his career; does he find that each company has a different approach to its heroes, a different tone to its universe that he must convey in his storytelling? "Sure, every company has a slightly different approach

or outlook," Marz said. "But ultimately you're hired to tell the best story you can tell, within the boundaries you're given. I'm a lot more concerned with telling that best story than I am with any overall mindset of how the company approaches its heroes. I think if you're doing your job, and telling a good story that stays true to the characters, the rest takes care of itself."

How does Marz approach a crossover like this—that is, how does he decide what elements of each character's backstory will be important to the crossover, which parts can be discarded, etc. "I write any of these crossover projects assuming that the reader isn't familiar with either character. The story contains enough character intros so that even first-time readers know who's who and what's what. That's not to say that you want to dumb down the story, or make it overly didactic. You have to work that kind of information into the story as seamlessly as you can. In ***Witchblade/Devi,*** Sara Pezzini arrives in India and has the city of Sitapur and even Devi explained to her by a fellow detective, who happens to be a regular supporting character in the Devi book. Hopefully it comes off as a natural conversation, rather than **EXPOSITION** in big neon letters!"

While the current Witchblade series involves two core characters, Sara and Dani, Marz said that as far as the crossover is concerned, "it's just Sara in this story, although a previous Witchblade bearer makes an appearance as well. With only 44 pages to tell the story, including introducing the characters and concepts, I just didn't feel like there was room for Dani."

Does this story fit into ***Witchblade*** continuity, or does Marz view this as a tale that predates the current ***Witchblade*** storyline? "I'm never one to get my shorts all bunched up over continuity," Marz said. "The story takes place at a time when Sara has the full Witchblade, not the current split version with Dani that we have in the ***Witchblade*** monthly. When you do these crossovers, I feel like it's better to use an almost iconic version of the characters, rather than one tied too specifically to the here and now. These crossovers are evergreen stories, to a certain extent."

What are the most striking commonalities in the two characters as Marz sees them? "Well, both Sara Pezzini and Tara Mehta, the woman who is the human host for Devi, have had this power and responsibility thrust upon them," Marz explained. "Now they have to deal with it as best they can. Sara is more of a hard-ass, obviously, in that she's a New York City police detective. Tara is just an average young woman. But they both bear up in their respective situations. They both have to deal with these ancient supernatural powers."

What sort of situation brings them together? "An Indian national is murdered in New York City, and the investigation ends up bringing Sara to India, to the city of Sitapur, which is Devi's home," Marz said. "But there's another layer, as we learn that a previous Witchblade bearer and a previous incarnation of Devi were allies in the time period shown in the very first Devi issue, more of a barbaric, sword-and-sorcery kind of era."

Does the story involve an established villain from either series? "The villain, Tama, is new, in that he's never appeared before. But he was actually mentioned in a passing reference in ***Devi #1,*** so we built him from scratch, and made sure he dovetailed nicely with that reference," Marz said. "So the modern Devi and Witchblade, as well as their ancient counterparts, end of facing the same villain. The story fits in with the established histories of Devi and Witchblade, but doesn't require readers to bring any of that knowledge with them."

Would Marz like the opportunity to write and script a ***Devi*** story at some point in the future? "I certainly wouldn't mind writing another Devi story at some point, but to be honest, the character is in great hands with the current creative team. I'm continuing my relationship with Virgin, editing ***Devi, Ramayan 3392 A.D. Reloaded,*** and a new book called ***Blade of the Warrior: Kshatriya,*** all of which are part of the Shakti line. The Shakti line is based more on mythology and the heroic tradition, so it's a good fit for me. ***Ramayan*** is a book I absolutely *love*—a science-fiction/fantasy epic with a great story and amazing art by *Jeevan Kang*. And ***Blade of the Warrior: Kshatriya*** is a new title that will be out later in the summer, more of a sword-and-sorcery tale with an Eastern flavor.

"I'm also writing a four-issue series for Virgin called ***Deepak Chopra's Beyond,*** which is an adaptation of a screenplay by Deepak. It's an dimension-spanning story, with some really lovely art by *Edison George*. The first issue of that should be out at about the same time as this issue of ***CSN,***" Marz said.

What made the project particularly intriguing for Marz was that it involves characters who are not part of developed superhero universes. "You know, there really isn't a 'Virgin Universe' yet," Marz said. "The titles stand independent from one another. Something like ***Beyond*** is pretty far removed from ***Guy Ritchie's Game Keeper,*** which is pretty far removed from ***Ramayan***. There are a lot of different offerings, a lot of different kinds of stories. The stuff I'm working on, the Shakti line, is right up my alley. As a kid I read a hell of a lot more ***Savage Sword of Conan*** issues than I did ***Justice League*** or ***Fantastic Four***. 'Comics' doesn't need to automatically mean 'superheroes,' even though superheroes saturate the market.

"Top Cow has a universe certainly, but it's not dominated by superheroes. Books like ***Witchblade*** and ***Darkness*** have more of a supernatural/crime vibe, which is also something that attracts me as a writer.

"I think there are a lot of similarities in Virgin's and Top Cow's approach to comics, actually," Marz continued. "Chief among them is the desire to put out good material. Both companies also embrace a pretty wide range of genres, rather than the same old stuff. Marvel and DC do what they do, and they're very good at it. But there's a lot of story territory that neither of the Big Two cover to any great extent. That's where boutique publishers like Virgin and Top Cow come in. They can offer readers a flavor they're not getting elsewhere."

Does Virgin have any other crossovers in the works? "There have definitely been some discussions and ideas floating around," *Gotham Chopra* said. "The first one has gone really well so far, and no one seems to dislike each other too much, so I don't see why we shouldn't do more!"

***Devi/Witchblade,*** a $2.99 comic, is scheduled for late June release.

**by Cliff Biggers**

**Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!**

# Comic Shop Newsarama

## Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

## Will Elder Passes

Comics legend *Will Elder*, the artist who helped to launch ***Mad***, died on May 15th at the age of 86.

Elder (who was born *Wolf William Eisenberg* before changing his name after returning from WWII) did some work for EC before joining *Harvey Kurtzman* in creating EC's humor comic. Elder and Kurtzman saw ***Mad*** transition from comics to magazine to cultural icon; then, in 1957, he and Kurtzman left to work on other projects, including several other ***Mad***-like humor magazines such as ***Trump***, ***Humbug***, and ***Help***. For the latter publication, Elder and Kurtzman created their innocent, idealistic ***Goodman Beaver***; from there, they went on to create a sexier female naif in the same innocent, idealistic mold. Her name was ***Little Annie Fanny***, and she remained a staple in *Hugh Hefner's* ***Playboy*** for more than a quarter century.

"*Willie Elder* was one of the funniest artists to ever work for ***Mad***. He created visual feasts with dozens of background gags layered into every ***Mad*** story he illustrated," *John Ficarra*, Editor of ***Mad Magazine***, said. "He called these gags 'chicken fat.' Willie's 'anything goes' art style set the tone for the entire magazine and created a look that endures to this day."

"Willie's passing saddens all of us here at ***Mad***," *Sam Viviano*, ***Mad*** Art Director, added. "Everyone who has attempted to draw a funny picture over the course of the last fifty or sixty years owes an enormous debt to Willie, who taught us all how to do it – and no one has ever done it better than he did."

## CSNsider

•***Batman #676***, the first installment of *Grant Morrison, Tony Daniel, & Sandu Florea's* "Batman R.I.P.," sold out from DC in less than 24 hours—and as you probably guessed, that means it's time for a second printing! The new edition, which is due to reach comic shops next week, will feature a recolored version of the incentive variant, featuring art by Daniel & Florea.

•Didja notice that a few recent books such as ***Flash #240*** and ***Birds of Prey #118*** carry a distinctive series logo identifying them as installments of ***The Dark Side Club?*** So what does that mean? We're told that books carrying that marking are "an unannounced echo of ***Final Crisis #1.***" Meanwhile, ***Justice League of America #21*** carries a different label—a distinctive ***Sightings*** trade dress. While this issue is a vital lead-in to ***Final Crisis***, introducing two villains who play integral roles in the *Grant Morrison-J.G. Jones* event series, not all ***Sightings*** books will necessarily relate to ***Final Crisis.*** Instead, these books will be key issues that feature pivotal story elements of great interest to fans of the DCU—and while that may include several ***Final Crisis*** related books, it will encompass more than just that.

•Marvel has announced an ultra-limited 1-for-100 *Michael Turner* sketch variant cover for ***Wolverine #66***, the kickoff issue of an eight-part *Mark Millar-Steve McNiven* storyline that offers a look at Wolverine more a half-century in the future as he joins with the blind archer Hawkeye to defend his family from the menace of the Hulk Gang.

•Last week we told you that Marvel was going back to press on ***Mighty Avengers #12***; it turns out that it's actually ***Mighty Avengers #13*** that'll see a second printing complete with a *Leinil Yu* cover. Other Marvel books earning a second printing include ***Captain Britain & MI13 #1*** (*Leonard Kirk* variant cover); ***Guardians of the Galaxy #1*** (*Paul Pelletier* variant cover); ***Thor: Ages of Thunder***; and ***Sky Doll #1.***

•Remember ***Halo: Uprising***, the four-part limited series that saw two issues on the stands in 2007? Well, to pave the way for the long-delayed third issue, Marvel is collecting the first two parts in ***Halo: Uprising Must-Have***, featuring a cover image by *Alex Maleev*. Look for it in later this summer.

•Veteran retailer, graphic novel proponent, and comics evangelist *Rory Root* passed away suddenly in mid-May due to surgical complications. Root was an enthusiastic supporter of comics of all types and styles, but was a particular advocate of graphic novels and collected editions, which make superlative material continually available to all readers.

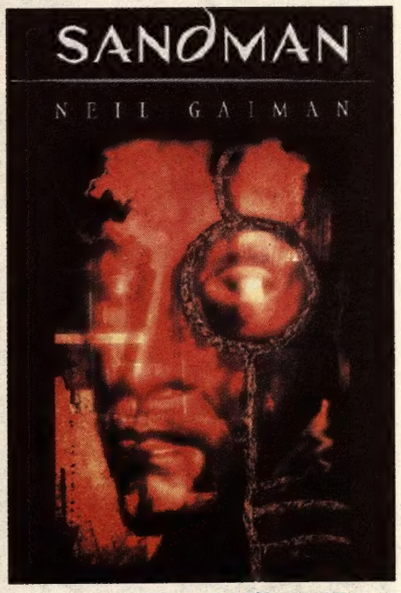
•***Captain America: White #0*** will be offered with a previously-unannounced unlimited variant cover by *Tim Sale.*

•In this week's ***Coming from DC Direct*** feature, we tell you about the first wave of ***Watchmen Movie Collectibles*** coming in January of 2009. That's the first of three months of ***Watchmen*** collectibles in the works; In February, DC Direct will offer ***The Comedian 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure; Watchmen Movie Nite Owl Bust (Modern); Watchmen Movie Silk Spectre Bust (Modern)***, and ***Watchmen Movie Action Figure Assortment #2***, which includes ***The Comedian, Dr. Manhattan (Classic), Nite Owl (Classic), & Silk Spectre (Classic)***, plus two highly detailed prop replicas. March brings the ***Rorschach 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure; Watchmen Movie The Comedian Bust; Watchmen Movie Dr. Manhattan Bust***, and another authentic prop replica. Who watches the ***Watchmen*** collectibles list for ya? We do!

## 2008's Talon-ted Eagle Winners

The 2008 Eagle Award winners were announced at the Bristol International Comic Expo in mid-May; while these are the pre-eminent British comics awards, ballots were cast by readers from more than 100 countries. And now, the winners, complete with appropriately British spellings:

- **Roll of Honour** – *Mike Mignola*
- **Favourite Newcomer Writer** – *Matt Fraction*
- **Favourite Newcomer Artist** – *David Aja*
- **Favourite Comics Writer** – *Alan Moore*
- **Favourite Comics Writer/Artist** – *Alan Davis*
- **Favourite Comics Artist (Pencils)** – *Frank Cho*
- **Favourite Comics Artist (Inks)** – *D'Israeli (Matt Brooker)*
- **Favourite Artist (Fully-Painted Artwork)** – *Alex Ross*
- **Favourite Colourist** – *Laura Martin*
- **Favourite Letterer** – *Dave Gibbons*
- **Favourite Editor** – *Tharg (Matt Smith)*
- **Favourite Publisher** – Marvel
- **Favourite Colour Comic (American): –*Hellboy: Darkness Calls***
- **Favourite Colour Comic (British)** – ***Spectacular Spider-Man***
- **Favourite B&W Comic (American)** –***The Walking Dead***
- **Favourite B&W Comic (British)** – ***How to Date a Girl in 10 Days***
- **Favourite New Comic** – ***Thor***
- **Favourite Manga** – ***Death Note***
- **Favourite European Comics** – ***Requiem, Vampire Knight***
- **Favourite Comics Story published during 2007** – ***Captain America 25-30: Death of Captain America***
- **Favourite Comics Cover published during 2007** – ***World War Hulk 1A*** (*David Finch*)
- **Favourite Original Graphic Novel** – ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Black Dossier***
- **Favourite Reprint Compilation** – ***Absolute Sandman volume 2***

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•**Favourite Web-Based Comic** – *The Order of the Stick*

## Coming Comics—DC in August

"Brainiac," the frightening *Geoff Johns-Gary Frank-Jon Sibal* storyline that sets the stage for the ***Superman*** event of 2008 continues in ***Action #868.*** Against everyone's advice, Superman has journeyed to the deepest reaches of space to initiate contact with an alien being he thought he knew: Brainiac. But after learning about the truth behind Brainiac's existence and his plans for Earth, Superman may regret his decision.

*Grant Morrison, Tony Daniel, & Sandu Florea* continue the "Batman R.I.P." saga in ***Batman #680,*** an issue that features two monumental events. First, Batman faces off against The Club of Villains. Then, The Joker makes his stand, challenging the Dark Knight to the ultimate battle of wits. Will Batman survive either of these threats – or could this be the end of Gotham City's greatest hero?

The Joker infiltrates the high-tech gang network of the Birds' new hometown, Platinum Flats, in ***Birds of Prey #121*** by *Tony Bedard, Michael O'Hare, & John Floyd.* That's going to set him up for a direct conflict with Oracle, Barbara Gordon... and as you remember, things didn't go so well the last time these two met...

Guest writer *Chuck Dixon* joins artists *Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund* into the Timestream to tell a tale of Booster and Batman in ***Booster Gold #11.*** When Booster is charged with stopping a time-traveling villain from Batman's past, he must travel back in time and go undercover as Killer Moth to stop this mystery man from destroying Gotham City.

*Brad Meltzer & Adam Kubert* offer readers an introspective look at DC's mightiest heroes preparing for the ultimate battle in ***DC Universe: Last Will & Testament,*** a 48-page oneshot. Whom do the heroes approach and say goodbye to before they make the ultimate sacrifice? Featuring the entire DC Universe, ***Last Will & Testament*** takes readers deep into the hearts and psyches of our heroes. It's the day before you die. What would you do?

Secrets shared years ago between Bruce Wayne and Tommy Elliott begin to have dangerous repercussions in the present in ***Detective #847,*** a "Batman R.I.P." tie-in by *Paul Dini, Dustin Nguyen, & Derek Fridolfs..* Why is this mystery driving Hush to destroy Batman's life? And what part does Catwoman play in Hush's plans?

This is the month that *Grant Morrison & J.G. Jones'* ***Final Crisis*** takes a break—but you don't have to go ***Final Crisis***-less, thanks to ***Final Crisis #1: Director's Cut Special,*** which reprints the first issue, adding an analysis of the issue and revelations regarding secrets hidden in the script and art.

*Geoff Johns, George Pérez, & Scott Koblish* pit the Legion of Super-Heroes against a twisted mirror image of the boy of steel from a long-dead parallel Earth in ***Final Crisis: Legion of Three Worlds,*** a five-issue miniseries. From the moment Kal-El landed on earth until the end of time, the Time Trapper has sought to erase Superman's impact on the universe. But the Legion of Super-Heroes have always been there to stop him. This time, though, even the Legion won't be enough. The Time Trapper has found the ultimate weapon to carry out his plan—Superboy-Prime! Who will answer the Legion's call for help?

*Greg Rucka & Philip Tan* unleash the wrath of God in ***Final Crisis: Revelations,*** a five-issue limited series. With the end of creation nigh, Crispus Allen must embrace his role as The Spectre by exacting God's vengeance on some of the DC Universe's most vile sinners. But even as Allen struggles with his duty, a new threat is arising – one that only his former partner, Renee Montoya, a.k.a. The Question, can help him fight!

Life was easier when the Rogues had Barry Allen for a foe – or at least it was a bit more fun. Now, hunted by Libra and the Secret Society for refusing to worship the impending evil that is prophesied to claim Earth, Cold and his crew find themselves attacked on several fronts . . . and that doesn't sit well with the Rogues. See how they respond in ***Final Crisis: Rogues' Revenge #2*** by *Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins.*

To save the woman he loves, the greatest hero of all time becomes the pawn of ultra-dimensional forces in ***Final Crisis: Superman Beyond,*** a two-part series by *Grant Morrison, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy.* It begins when a wounded emissary from a world of doomed super gods comes to Earth on the eve of the Final Crisis. His mission: To recruit Superman's help against an epic, reality-spanning menace that originated in the ***Crisis on Infinite Earths.*** The mission takes the Man of Steel and his alternate-earth counterparts on a voyage to the edge of the DC Universe — and beyond!

*Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Oclair Albert* offer the penultimate chapter of "Secret Origin" in ***Green Lantern #34.*** Hal Jordan and Sinestro face off against Abin Sur's killer - Atrocitus! But what dark secret has Atrocitus uncovered about the impending "Blackest Night?" And what revelation will forever change the relationship between Hal and Carol Ferris?

*Peter Tomasi, Luke Ross, & Fabio Laduna* present the grand opening of the new Warriors bar in ***Green Lantern Corps #27.*** Then, meet a mysterious new Lantern by the name of Saarek,who can hear the dead. What brings him to Oa – and why are the dead growing restless?

*Jim Starlin* supplies both the story and the art for ***Hawkman Special #1,*** a 40-page oneshot that spins out of the events of ***Rann/Thanagar: Holy War.*** Hawkman finds himself face to face with a force of unspeakable evil: Synnar. The things Hawkman will learn in the course of their confrontation may lead him to question his very existence!

Magog is introduced into the DC Universe ***Justice Society of America #18's*** "Gog" part 3 by *Geoff Johns, Alex Ross, Dale Eaglesham, & Ruy José.* The last god of the Third World has walked the Earth, delivering good will to men wherever he goes. But out of a violent confrontation comes the birth of the one being the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman must stop: Magog! Meanwhile, Starman struggles with his new role on the team and Damage celebrates his.

Two-Face hits New York City in ***Nightwing #147,*** a "Batman R.I.P." tie-in by *Peter J. Tomasi, Don Kramer, & Sandu Florea* – but when he takes a bite out of the Big Apple, he finds it rotten to the core. He'll make Nightwing and all of New York pay for their crimes…unless Nightwing can save one of Harvey Dent's old flames from an assassin's bullet!

Facing some of the toughest criminals and monsters known to man is nothing compared to dealing with your on again/off again, back-from-the-dead girlfriend's enraged deadbeat dad! A not-so-happy reunion puts Robin between Spoiler and Cluemaster in ***Robin #177*** by *Chuck Dixon & Freddie Williams II.*

Atlas and Superman continue their all-out war in *James Robinson & Renato Guedes'* ***Superman #679,*** with Metropolis as the prize. But for all his power, Superman seems unable to defeat this titan of myth. With our hero down for the count, it will take another, unexpected hero to save the day. This issue guest-stars Supergirl and – someone else (but DC ain't sayin' who!...).

The Man of Steel and the Dark Knight are shocked to discover little versions of themselves fighting a threat in Metropolis. But where did these tiny heroes come from? As Superman and Batman search for answers, things get worse with the arrival of the Li'l League! Yep, *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Rafael Albuquerque* have not-so-big things planned for ***Superman/Batman #51.***

The Justice League joins Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman to present a formidable front against the Crime Syndicate's threat in ***Trinity #s 10-13*** by *Kurt Busiek, Mark Bagley, & Art Thibert.* In this month's backup features, members of Batman's "family" search for clues to what ties several thefts together – and what links them to the cosmic conflict that has resulted!

*Gail Simone & Aaron Lopresti* present the finale of the 4-part "Ends of the Earth" in ***Wonder Woman #23.*** Wonder Woman returns from the darkest corners of the DCU... and she's brought something nasty back with her!

DC collected editions include:
•***Batman and the Outsiders Volume 1: The Chrysalis TP,*** collecting ***Batman & The Outsiders #s 1-5;***
•***Batman Black & White Volume 3 TP,*** collecting stories from ***Batman: Gotham***

**Continued on page 6**

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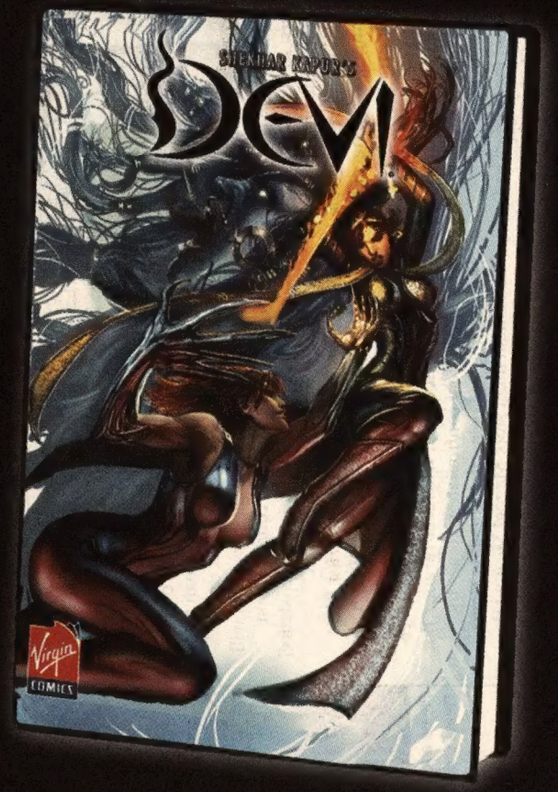


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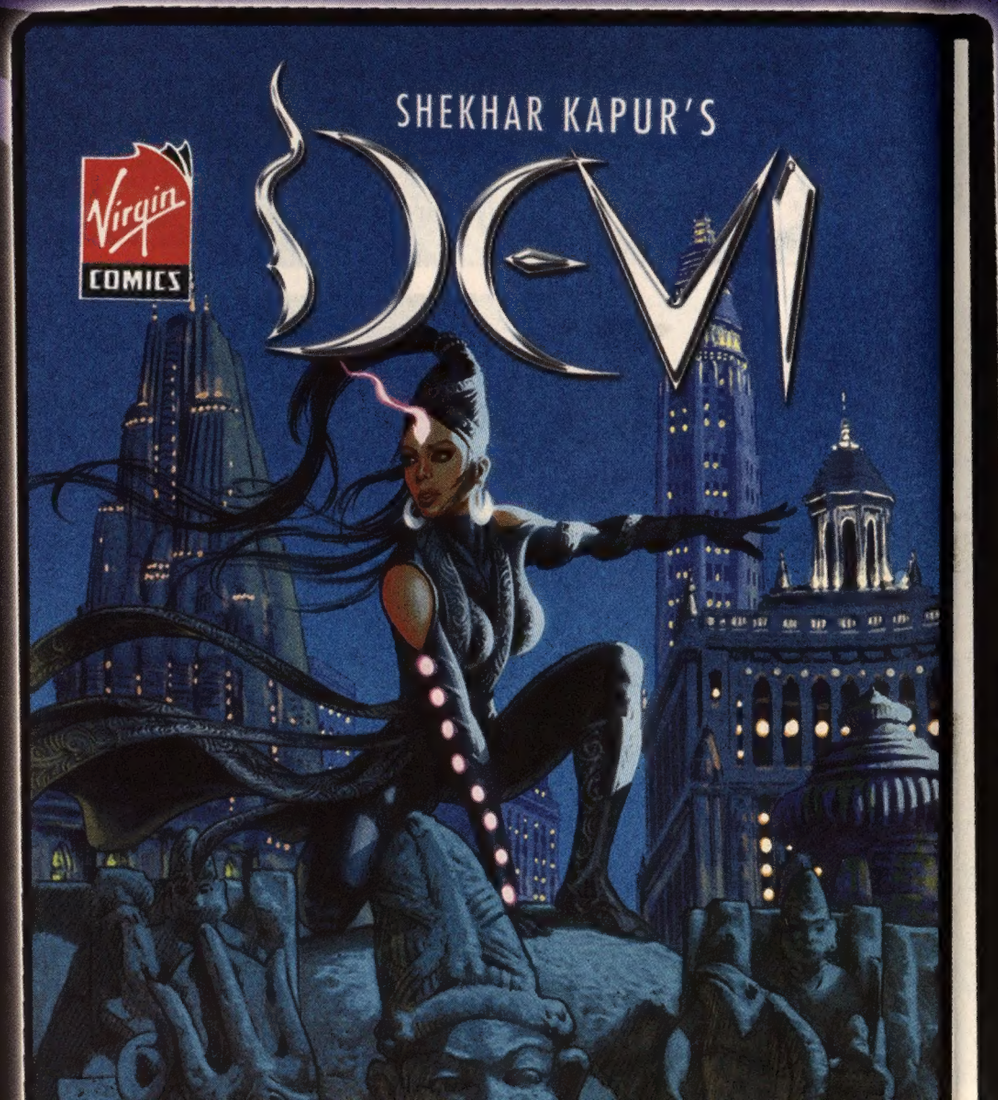


DEVI

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•***DC Universe Special: Ambush Bug #1,*** collecting ***Supergirl #16, Action #s 560, 563, & 565,*** and ***DC Comics Presents #81;***
•***Green Lantern: Revenge of the Green Lanterns TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 7-13;***

•***DC Universe Illustrated by Neal Adams Volume One HC*** kicks off a three-book set collecting all the stories not already compiled in the previously-released Adams ***Green Lantern/Green Arrow, Deadman,*** and ***Batman*** compendia, including tales from ***Our Army at War #s 182, 183, & 186; Star Spangled War Stories #s 134 & 144; Detective #369; Teen Titans #s 20-22; Action #425; Superman #254;*** and ***Weird War Tales #s 12 & 13;***
•***JLA: Salvation Run TP,*** collecting the seven-part miniseries;
•***JSA Presents Green Lantern TP,*** collecting a variety of Alan Scott tales;
•***Justice League of America: The Tornado's Path TP,*** collecting the first seven issues of the current series;
•***Justice Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Justice #s 5-8;***
•***Kingdom Come TP,*** featuring a new foldout painted cover by *Alex Ross;*
•***The Legion of Super-Heroes: Enemy Rising HC,*** collecting ***Legion of Super-Heroes #s 37-44;***
•***The New Teen Titans Archives Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***New Teen Titans #s 21-27 & Annual #1;***
•***The Phantom Stranger: The Heart of a STranger,*** collecting the 1987 series featuring art by *Mike Mignola,* along with tales from ***Secret Origins #10;***
•***Showcase Presents The Metal Men Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Metal Men #s 16-36*** and ***Brave & Bold #66;***
•***Showcase Presents Blackhawk Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Blackhawk #s 108-127,*** the first post-Quality-Comics issues;
•***Superman/Batman: The Search for Kryptonite HC,*** collecting ***Superman/Batman #s 44-49;***
•***Superman: The Third Kryptonian TP,*** collecting ***Superman #s 668-670 & Action #847,*** plus the backup story from ***Superman Annual #13;*** and
•***Uncle Sam & the Freedom Fighters: Brave New World TP,*** collecting the eight-issue miniseries.

## Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in August

The Authority has survived the cataclysmic events following ***Number of the Beast*** — but just barely! Do they have a hope of rebuilding their "finer world," or is that hope dead and gone? Find out in ***The Authority: World's End #1*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Simon Coleby.* This issue also presents the second part of a John Lynch backup story that began in ***Wildcats: World's End #1.***

Pyralis! Sirocco! Troylus! Terran! They're better known as ***The Family Dynamic,*** defenders of Storm City who use their mystical Elemental Rings to battle the forces of evil. But what happens when members of their extended family want in on the superhero action? They say the family that plays together stays together – but does that count when they're playing the good guys? Find out in this six-issue miniseries by *J. Torres & Tim Levins.*

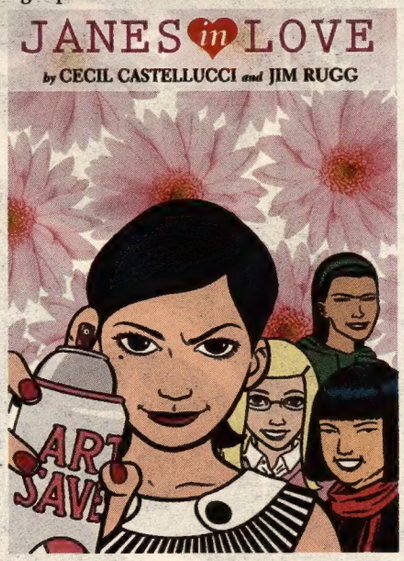
Gen13 takes a major change in direction in ***Gen13: World's End #21*** by *Scott Beatty & Mike Huddleston.* After jumping through an I.O. teleportation device at the close of their last adventure, the Gen13 kids find themselves in a radically changed world that they never expected! This issue also presents the third part of a John Lynch backup story that began in ***Wildcats: World's End #1.***

Stormwatch PHD returns, post-***Number of the Beast,*** in ***Stormwatch PHD: World's End #13*** by *Ian Edginton & Leandro Fernandez.* Jackson King has once again resumed the role of Weatherman, taking StormWatch in a startling new direction! But what role does StormWatch have in this dramatic, deadly new world? This issue also presents the fourth part of a John Lynch backup story that began in ***Wildcats: World's End #1.***

The story of ***Wildcats: World's End*** continues in #2 as the new, devastated world is revealed by creators *Christos Gage & Neil Googe.* The Wildcats find themselves battling a former ally — one who happens to be among the most powerful super-humans alive. Can the team withstand his assault on the HALO building? Also, don't miss the backup story featuring chapter one of a ***Wetworks*** tale by Gage and artist *Brandon Badeaux.*

Mulder and Scully are back in action in ***The X-Files Special #0,*** a previously untold story of ***X-Files'*** dynamic duo brought to you by the film's co-writer and producer *Frank Spotnitz,* with art by *Brian Denham.*

WildStorm collected editions include:
•***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash TP,*** collecting the sleeper hit six-part miniseries featuring three of horror's biggest names against one another; and
•***Number of the Beast TP,*** collecting the eight-part miniseries.




## Coming from Minx/DC in October

The PLAIN Janes are back in ***Janes in Love,*** a new graphic novel by *Cecil Castellucci & Jim Rugg* in which the coolest clique of misfits ever plays Cupid and becomes entangled in affairs of the heart. P.L.A.I.N. – People Loving Art In Neighborhoods – goes global when the art gang procures a spot in the Metro City Museum of Modern Art Contest. And the Janes will discover that in art and love, the normal rules don't always apply.

A borrowed diary, a double life and identity issues fuel a teenager's quest to find herself before she cracks and commits social suicide. Watch Emi go from dull, suburban babysitter to eclectic urban art star in ***Emiko Superstar*** by *Mariko Tamaki & Steve Rolston.*

## Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in August

*G. Willow Wilson & M.K. Perker* take readers on an unforgettable aerial excursion in ***Air #1,*** the 40-page debut issue of Vertigo's newest ongoing series. "***Air*** is about an acrophobic stewardess," Vertigo's *Karen Berger* explained. "It's a journey through the world and eventually through time and space in a search for a mysterious guy she fell in love with--he could be a terrorist, could be a spy, could be Greek, could be Arab, could be Jewish—and it all comes together around a plot of espionage and adventure." A special preview of the first issue appears in ***Madame Xanadu #1.***

*Rick Veitch & Gary Erskine* continue this irreverent look at modern war in ***Army@Love: The Art of War #1,*** the kickoff of a six-part miniseries that follows the raucous misadventures of a group of U.S. soldiers fighting the war that the mass media keeps trying to characterize as unwinnable.

The distinctive, eye-catching ***Fables*** cover paintings done by *James Jean* are compiled in ***Fables: Covers by James Jean HC.*** This volume includes never-before-seen sketch material, along with insightful commentary and remarkable insights into Jean's creative process. Also included is a afterword by ***Fables*** writer/creator *Bill Willingham.* Designed and annotated by the artist, this deluxe, oversized hardcover includes ten vellum sleeve inserts, an embossed case, and other distinctive fine art details.

Vertigo collected editions include:
•***100 Bullets Volume 12: Dirty TP,*** collecting ***100 Bullets #s 84-88;***
•***Cairo SC,*** a softcover edition of the graphic novel by ***Air's*** creators, *G. Willow Wilson & M.K. Perker;*
•***Loveless Volume 3: Blackwater Falls TP,***

llecting ***Loveless #s 13-24;*** ***Scalped Volume 3: Dead Mothers TP,*** collecting ***Scalped #s 12-18;*** and ***Y—The Last Man Deluxe Edition Book 1 C,*** offering the first ten issues of the ward-winning series by *Brian K. Vaughan, ia Guerra, & José Marzan Jr.* in an oversized ardcover.

## Coming from CMX/DC in September

The ability to change the past might seem like a great gift... but it could come with unexpected consequences, as Kazuko discovers in ***The Girl Who Runs Through Time Volume 1*** by *Yasutaka Tsutsui & Gaku Tsugano.* When the teenager is exposed to the contents of a broken beaker in the science lab, she finds herself transported back to her own past... but what will she do with her new time-travelling ability?

## Coming from DC Direct in January '09

Yep, there's a ***Watchmen*** movie on the way... and that means that there'll be lots of tie-in collectibles. DC Direct leads the way with an impressive assortment, including

- ***Watchmen Movie Rorschach Bust***
- ***Watchmen Movie Ozymandias Bust***
- ***Watchmen Movie Dr. Manhattan 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure***
- ***Watchmen Movie Action Figures,*** including ***Rorschach, Ozymandias, Nite Owl (Modern),*** and ***Silk Spectre (Modern)***

Joker fans and ***Dark Knight*** movie enthusiasts alike will want to shuffle into their local comic shop to reserve a ***Joker Poker Set.*** This unique collectors' item includes a deck of 54 prop replica Joker cards (as seen in ***The Dark Knight*** film) and a standard

"playable" 4-suit, 54 card deck defaced by The Joker. Also included are 100 4-color poker chips in Joker-themed colors of green, purple, red and black, and 5 dice. The entire set comes housed in a black aluminum carrying case (which locks to prevent The Joker from defacing the second set of cards!), and the case is packaged in a 4-color box. A 4-color Certificate of Authenticity is also included and appears as one of the playing cards! (This item is advance-solicited for August release.)

DC Direct's ***Ame-Comi*** line of anime-inspired PVC sculptures of DCU heroines continues with ***Ame-Comi Hawkgirl,*** designed by *Udon Studios.*

Green Lantern's crimson-skinned adversary gets his own 12" action figure with the release of ***Sinestro 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure,*** featuring Sinestro dressed in his new, intricately designed and authentically detailed fabric costume; the figure also carries a yellow lantern power battery to charge his fear-fueled yellow power ring!

DC Direct expands their ***JLA Trophy Room*** line of deluxe collectibles with their ***Green Lantern Power Battery Prop Replica,*** cast in metal for the first time. The battery comes with a "one-size-fits-most" (size 10) metal Green Lantern ring that lights up the lantern for 30 seconds when the ring is pressed against the face of the lantern. A resin stand is also included to display the Green Lantern ring when it's not in use. This piece can also be activated by an on/off switch and is powered by 3 AA batteries and LED bulbs, all of which are included. (DC adds the following note: "Does not charge the Green Lantern Power Ring to full strength. Only the original Power Battery, currently in the possession of Green Lantern, can do that.") This detailed prop replica measures approximately 12" tall x 9.75" wide x 8" deep, not including the handle.

The ***Justice League of America*** action figure line continues with ***Series 3,*** featuring ***Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, The Flash,*** and ***Geo-Force,*** based on the art of *Ed Benes.*

The art of *Ethan Van Sciver* is the inspiration for the latest ***Batman: Black & White Statue,*** *sculpted* by *Ray Villafane.*


# PREVIEWS

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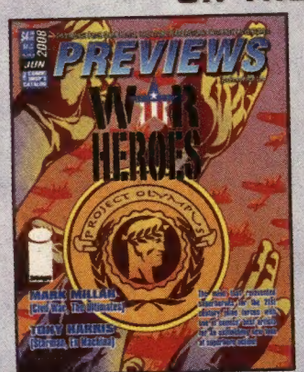
### ON THE COVER ...




**WAR HEROES #3**—The recruits of Project Olympus finish their training and are shipped off to the Middle East where, watched by the eyes of the world, they march forth unscathed. But things are not as simple as they seem...

NEW WAYS TO DIE
The Return of Venom!
The Fate of Eddie Brock
and the Debut of the Deadliest Symbiote Yet!
MARVEL
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #568

**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #568: "NEW WAYS TO DIE" PART 1**—John Romita Jr. returns to *Amazing Spider-Man!* Get ready for a six-part, Spidey Summer Blockbuster: The Thunderbolts are coming to New York to take down Spider-Man! And that means Norman Osborn's back! Venom's back! And they're not the only ones... Who else is going to show up? Find out in "New Ways To Die" Part One!

PREVIEWS 20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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### CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

**Bernie Wrightson's Frankenstein HC**—Dark Horse Books brings this new hardcover edition of Bernie Wrightson's classic adaptation of Mary Shelley's **Frankenstein** back to print in a larger format to show off his beautiful line work!

**DC Universe: Last Will and Testament #1**—*New York Times* bestselling author Brad Meltzer presents returns to the DCU with this *Final Crisis* tie-in special guest-starring virtually the entire DC Universe!

**Gully! #1**—When the End of Days gets called off, some remote corners of Hell don't get the message... so Heaven sends in their "best" men to set them straight (back to Hell) in **Gully!** by Phil Hester and Brook Turner!

**Runaways #1**—Terry Moore (*Strangers in Paradise, Echo*) and superstar artist Humberto Ramos (*X-Men, Wolverine, Spider-Man*) present a new beginning for Marvel's favorite **Runaways!**

### AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Watchmen Movie Merchandise** from DC Direct!
- **The Vertigo Encyclopedia** in the Books Section!
- **The Big Lebowski Series 2 Action Figures** in the Toys Section!
- **Bart Simpson 3" Doe Mania Series 2 Figure** in the Designer Toys Section!
- **Death Note: The Movie** in the DVDs & Digital Media Section!
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# ENVY

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